



Office Location:
Scottsdale, Tucson

ARIZONA MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP (ARIZONA MEP)

The Arizona MEP, through its experienced staff of engineering, technology and business management professionals, assists small and medium-sized manufacturing firms implement changes that lead to greater productivity, increased profits, and enhanced global competitiveness. Contact: William Bollin, 1435 North Hayden Road, Scottsdale AZ, 85257, (480) 874-9100, Fax: (480) 874-8680, Email: director@arizonamep.org, Website: <http://www.arizonamep.org>

THE MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP IN ARIZONA

Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a nationwide system of services and support for smaller manufacturers to become more globally competitive. At the heart of the system is a network of affiliated, locally-based manufacturing extension centers. Each center, like Arizona MEP, is a partnership, typically involving federal, state, and local governments; industry; educational institutions; and other sources of expertise, information and funding support.

COMPANY CLIPS

Future Fabricators Increases Competitiveness

Future Fabricators is a privately held precision CNC machining prototype-to-production fabricator for the communication, aerospace, and energy markets. The company is located in Phoenix and has approximately 22 employees. Facing increased competition and a slowing economy, Future Fabricators knew it needed to assess its strengths and weaknesses and make changes to improve its competitiveness and eliminate waste. For help, the company contacted the Arizona Manufacturing Extension Partnership (Arizona MEP).

The vice president of Future Fabricators attended an Arizona MEP Principles of Lean Manufacturing workshop to learn about a process that focuses on creating greater production efficiencies while minimizing waste in manufacturing. In addition, he participated in an Arizona MEP-led QuickView comprehensive assessment of Future Fabricators' operations. The assessment identified areas for improvement, areas that needed capital and time investment, and some non-technical areas of Future Fabricators' operation that might be impeding growth and competitiveness.

Using the lean manufacturing concepts and QuickView assessment report provided by Arizona MEP, Future Fabricators initiated a plan to begin making changes. As a result of Future Fabricators' first project under this plan, employees have been involved in developing quick changeover fixtures and tool shadow boards. Although the changes have only recently begun, Future Fabricators has already seen a significant reduction in setup time and is confident that it will realize increased production and profits.

Continued

STATE STATS

DATA* COVERS JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2001

Number of projects completed
with firms
52

Number of firms served
57

Number of firms served for
the first time
22

Federal cost share for current
operating year
\$1,058,400

State/other cost share for current
operating year
\$2,116,800

**Data as reported from center*

DATA** COVERS JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2001

Increased sales & retained sales
\$2,000,000

Client capital investment
\$19,000

Total cost savings
\$60,000

Jobs (created & maintained)
25

***Source: Independent client impact survey*

**For additional information,
contact Dede McMahon 301-975-5020**



Axian Technology Becomes A Lean Manufacturer

Axian Technology is a high volume manufacturer of high-tolerance, small-dimension aerospace and medical equipment. The company employs 43 people at its Phoenix facility.

Axian Technology is growing and redefining its image, implementing lean principles throughout the organization. Its lean implementation strategy is to train all employees in lean principles, implement manufacturing cells, and hold kaizen events to improve cycle times. As the company proceeded with its continuous improvement plans, management recognized that inventory levels created order-to-cash flow lead times of up to a year or more. Axian Technology contacted the Arizona Manufacturing Extension Partnership (Arizona MEP) to help it address the issue.

After training all Axian employees in the Principles of Lean Manufacturing (Lean 101 course), Arizona MEP led a five-person cross-functional team through a value stream mapping exercise and began designing the first lean manufacturing cell. Arizona MEP performed an evaluation of Axian's products and designed a balanced machine and operator capacity/workload strategy. The team used an implementation checklist and action item list compiled by Arizona MEP to integrate lean practices into its operations. Among the list of action items is a series of kaizen events involving set-up reduction, 5S workplace organization, and total productive maintenance (TPM) implementation, which are being planned with Arizona MEP. As a result of its initial improvements, the company hired 9 new employees, improved inventory levels to save \$283,593, and increased its large and small volume order flexibility.